

HEADER	REQUIRED	DESCRIPTION
/begin_header	Y	The first line of every data file, indicating the beginning of the header block. This header does not have an input argument.
/investigators	Y	The name of the principal investigator, followed by any associate investigators.
/affiliations	Y	A list of affiliations, e.g., university and laboratory, for each investigator.
/contact	Y	An electronic mail address for at least one of the investigators or point of contact for the data file.
/experiment	Y	The name of the long-term research project, e.g., CalCOFI and CARIACO. An entry of SIMBIOS is not permitted.
/cruise	Y	The name of the specific cruise, or subset of the experiment, where the data in the file were collected e.g., cal9802 and car48. An entry of SIMBIOS is not permitted.
/station	N	The name of the station or deployment area where data in the file were collected.
/data_file_name	Y	The current name of the data file.
/documents	Y	A list of cruise reports, station logs, digital images, and other associated documentation, which provide additional information about the experiment and cruise. This documentation must accompany the data file at the time of submission.
/calibration_files	Y	A list of supplementary files containing coefficients and techniques used to calibrate the instruments used in data collection. This documentation must accompany the data files at the time of submission.
/data_type	Y	The general collection method, platform, or type of data found in the file. Acceptable values include: cast for vertical profiles, e.g., optical packages and CTD; flow_thru for continuous data, e.g., shipboard and underway flow through systems; above_water for above surface radiometry data, e.g., ASD, SIMBAD, and Satlantic SAS; sunphoto for sun photometry data, e.g., MicroTops and PREDE; mooring for moored and buoy data; drifter for drifter and drogue data; scan for discrete hyperspectral measurements; lidar for lidar and other active remote-sensing measurements, e.g., MPL; and pigment for laboratory measured pigment data, e.g., fluorometry and HPLC.
/data_status	N	The condition, or status, of the data file. The value preliminary indicates the data are new and the investigator intends to analyze the data further. The value update indicates the data are being resubmitted and informs the SIMBIOS Project that a resubmission will occur in the future. The value final indicates the investigator has no intention of revisiting the data set.
/start_date	Y	The earliest date data in the file were collected, in the form YYYYMMDD.
/end_date	Y	The latest date data in the file were collected, in the form YYYYMMDD.

/start_time	Y	The earliest time of day data in the file were collected, in the form HH:MM:SS. Values are required to be in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). This header requires a [GMT] trailer, e.g., /start_time=02:45:30 [GMT].
/end_time	Y	The latest time of data in the file were collected, in the form HH:MM:SS. Values are required to be in GMT. This header requires a [GMT] trailer, e.g., /end_time=02:56:20 [GMT].
/north_latitude	Y	The farthest north data in the file were collected, in decimal degrees. This header requires a [DEG] trailer, e.g., /north_latitude=45.223 [DEG]. Coordinates south of the equator are set negative.
/south_latitude	Y	The farthest south data in the file were collected, in decimal degrees. This header requires a [DEG] trailer (e.g., /south_latitude=31.884 [DEG]). Coordinates south of the equator are set negative.
/east_longitude	Y	The farthest east data in the file were collected, in decimal degrees. This header requires a [DEG] trailer (e.g., /east_longitude=-65.225 [DEG]). Coordinates set west of the Prime Meridian are set negative.
/west_longitude	Y	The farthest west data in the file were collected, in decimal degrees. This header requires a [DEG] trailer, e.g., /west_longitude=-83.117 [DEG]. Coordinates set west of the Prime Meridian are set negative.
/cloud_percent	N	Percent cloud cover for the entire sky, e.g., 0 for a cloud-free sky and 100 for a completely overcast sky.
/measurement_depth	N	The discrete depth at which data were collected, in meters. This header is required for bottle samples, shipboard flow-through systems, buoys, and moored radiometers.
/secchi_depth	N	The secchi depth at the station where the data were collected, in meters.
/water_depth	Y	The water depth at the station where the data were collected, in meters.
/wave_height	N	The wave height at the station where the data were collected, in meters.
/wind_speed	N	The wind speed at the station where the data were collected, in meters per second.
! COMMENTS	N	A space for additional comments. Common comments include additional ancillary information about the data file, sea and sky states, difficulties encountered during data collection, methods of data collection, instruments used, and a description of nonstandard SeaBASS field names included in the data file.
/missing	Y	The null value used as a numeric placeholder for any missing data in the data file. Each row of data must contain the same number of columns as defined in the /fields and /units headers. Only one missing value is allowed per file. It is required that this value be non-zero.

<code>/delimiter</code>	Y	The delimiter of the columns of data. Accepted delimiters include tab, space, and comma. Only a single delimiter is permitted per data file.
<code>/fields</code>	Y	A list of the fields, e.g., CHL, for each column of data included in the data file. Each entry describes the data in a single column, and every column must have an entry.
<code>/units</code>	Y	A list of the units, e.g., mg m ⁻³ , for each column of data included in the data file. Every value in <code>/fields</code> must have an appropriate value listed in this header.
<code>/end_header</code>	Y	The final line of the header block, indicating the beginning of the data block. This header does not have an input argument.